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Body Camera Commission Begins Its Work
Panel Mandated by New Law will Recommend How Law Enforcement Should Use
Body-Worn Cameras

Baltimore, MD - The Commission Regarding the Implementation and Use of Body Cameras by Law Enforcement Officers has announced it will hold its first meeting on August 4, 2015 in Annapolis. The Commission was established by [Chapters 128 and 129](#) of 2015, and will be staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention (GOCCP). Its mission is to compile a state- and nation-wide study of best practices for the use of body cameras by a law enforcement officer. It must make recommendations on policy and training to the Maryland Police Training Commission (MPTC) and the General Assembly by October 1, 2015.

The Acts, passed by the General Assembly this year, make it lawful for a law enforcement officer in the course of the his or her regular duty to intercept an oral communication with a body-worn digital recording device. These recording devices are in the form of a body-worn camera, or as part of an electronic control device (ECD). The Acts do not mandate the use of body-worn digital recording devices or electronic control devices by law enforcement officers while they are on duty.

"I look forward to working with the members of this Commission in fulfilling the mission of examining this important public safety issue," said retired federal Judge Frederic Smalkin, who will chair the Commission. "The expertise and insight brought by each Commission member will be helpful in suggesting a set of best practices to the MPTC for it to use in formulating the policies it will publish for those agencies that have adopted or will adopt the use of body cameras."

"More than a dozen Maryland law enforcement agencies are currently using or conducting pilot programs with body-worn cameras," said Christopher Shank, Executive Director of GOCCP. "The Commission will work to develop recommendations on how they should be used, and in what circumstances."

After the Commission makes its report, the MPTC will develop and publish a statewide policy for how body-worn cameras should be used by Maryland law enforcement officers.

The Commission will hold its first meeting in the Joint Hearing Room of the Legislative Services Buildings in Annapolis on Tuesday, August 4, at 10:00 a.m. The Commission will meet again in the same place on Tuesday, September 1 at 10:00 a.m.

Commission Members

Chief Judge Frederic Smalkin, U.S. District Court of Maryland (Retired), Chairman
Senator Victor Ramirez, Senate of Maryland
Delegate Charles E. Sydnor, House of Delegates
Colonel William Pallozzi, Maryland State Police
Zenita Hurley, Esquire, Office of Attorney General
Paul DeWolfe, Jr., Esquire, Office of Public Defender
Mr. Edward Parker, Governor's Office of Crime Control & Prevention
Secretary David Garcia, Department of Information and Technology
Russell Butler, Esquire, Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center
Mr. Vincent Canales, President, State Fraternal Order of Police
Carlos Acosta, Esquire, Prince George's County Police Department
Captain Michael Wahl, Montgomery County Police Department
Captain Ross R. Passman, Anne Arundel County Police Department
Major Mark Warren, Baltimore County Police Department
Chief Douglas Holland, Hyattsville Police Department
David Rocah, Esquire, ACLU of Maryland
Mr. Gerald Stansbury, President, Maryland Conference NAACP
Phillip Hinkle, Esquire, Charles County Sheriff's Office
Council President Bernard C. "Jack" Young, Baltimore City Council
J. Charles Smith, III, Esquire, Frederick County State's Attorney
Chief John M. Fitzgerald, Village of Chevy Chase Police Department
Nicole Jassie, Esquire, CASA de Maryland

